

# Project Case Studies



## Tamalpais Valley Golden Gate National Recreation Area

UNMANAGED EUCALYPTUS TREES, surrounding structures or within falling distance, are an accident waiting to happen. Two critical acres of eucalyptus were removed from Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Southern Marin, near the intersection of Marin Drive and Smith

Road in Tamalpais Valley, during the fall of 2002. Soon afterwards, another 4 acres was removed near the Marinview subdivision, and two sites near Via Recodo and Vista de Valle, also in Tamalpais Valley. These small, highly targeted projects, were

done to create defensible space around homes adjacent to the park boundary. From the hundreds of acres of eucalyptus on GGNRA land, strategic areas in the wildland-urban interface are given the highest priority for removal.

Treatments on park land are often accompanied by a partnership project on private land, on the other side of the park boundary. Key partners include local fire departments, homeowners associations, and FIRESafe MARIN.

The new GGNRA Fire Management Plan identifies 4,926 acres of wildland-urban interface within GGNRA lands which will be targeted in future fuel reduction projects. This includes the 70 -acre eucalyptus grove adjacent to homes in Tamalpais Valley.

Flammable vegetation in immediate proximity to homes must be removed to create defensible space. Defensible space between structures and vegetation allows firefighters to safely defend a home from wildfire, and may also allow a home to survive on its own.



1936 tree trimming: "Improvements to Grounds" National Archives and Record Center, Fort Baker Construction Completion Reports 1917-1941

Management of the landscape was an ongoing concern during the historic period, as evidenced by this WPA work party, trimming trees on the Fort Baker parade ground.

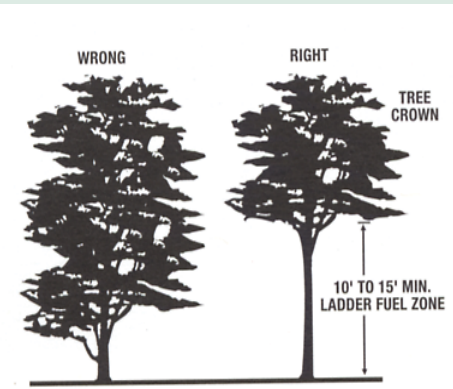
Trimming branches and removing leaf litter preserves the historic condition of Fort Baker and is good fire safe practice.



BEFORE



AFTER



## Fort Baker Military Reservation GGNRA

FORT BAKER IS ONE OF THREE MILITARY RESERVATIONS that form the Forts Baker, Barry and Cronkhite Historic District, an area that is nationally significant for its coastal defense history.

In a 1888 reveiw of coastal defenses, Henry L. Abbot, a prominent military strategist wrote, “... *we must sacrifice neat crests and beautiful slopes, so far as the service of the guns and protection against washing by storms will permit; trees and bushes must be planted on the parapets and behind the batteries to prevent a clear definition of the guns... in a word, dispersion and concealment, as contrasted with concentration and armor...*”

In 1903, in conjunction with original building construction at Fort Baker, the post Quartermaster oversaw preparation of a planting program to reduce the discomfort caused by winds roaring through the Golden Gate into the site, as well as to enhance the appearance of the developing landscape. The Quartermaster’s plan for Fort Baker proposed using 10,000 each of Monterey pine, cypress and eucalyptus trees to form a protective windbreak in a continuous arc along the semicircle of hills behind the post. It is not known exactly how many trees were planted, but it was far fewer than was proposed. In addition to windbreaks, windrows of trees were placed along the roads leading to the cantonement, where the living quarters and offices were.

At Fort Baker, blue gum eucalyptus trees are protected as part of a nationally significant cultural landscape.